

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL ELECTIONS HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Special Elections Home Rule Act. This bill would give the District of Columbia complete authority to set the date of special elections for local offices, like other jurisdictions. This bill simply removes a D.C. Home Rule Act limitation on the District that is not only inconsistent with the self-government granted by the Home Rule Act, but is also counterproductive.

This bill allows legislation we got enacted in 2012 that gave the D.C. Board of Elections ("Board") more flexibility to set the date of special elections for local offices to maximize voter participation. Although we sought complete authority for the District over the scheduling of special elections, the 2012 law, the District of Columbia Special Election Reform Act, did not include this home-rule principle. D.C. should have complete authority over a matter that is unrelated to any other congressional district and has no relevance to Congress.

The Home Rule Act originally required the Board to hold special elections on the first Tuesday occurring more than 114 days after a vacancy and allowed the Board to schedule special elections on the same day as the next general election if that election occurred within 60 days from when a special election would otherwise have been held. This inflexibility led to special elections being held on religious holidays and forced the District to hold a special election separate from an upcoming general election, costing the District hundreds of thousands of dollars. The 2012 law requires the Board to hold a special election on a Tuesday occurring between 70 and 174 days after a vacancy.

This bill is an important step to perfect home rule for the District. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

COMMEMORATING THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK JANUARY IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the anniversary of the "Black January" killings, one of the most tragic events in Azerbaijan's history.

Thirty-two years ago, on the night of January 20, 1990, approximately 26,000 Soviet troops stormed Azerbaijan's capital city of Baku in tanks and armored vehicles. The Soviet military bulldozed and opened fired on innocent Azerbaijanis and peaceful protestors, including women and children. The resulting casualties of these brutal acts were 147 people killed, around 800 injured, 841 arrested, and 5 missing. I offer my thoughts and prayers to the families of those who gave their lives for the independence of Azerbaijan.

Despite these merciless acts, the Azerbaijani people were not deterred. They continued to fight for their freedom and became independent in 1991. The United States was one of the first countries to recognize Azerbaijan's independence and fully established diplomatic relations on February 28, 1992. The relationship between our two countries endures to this day. The United States and Azerbaijan are strategic allies and share common interests in the region and globally.

As the co-chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I urge my colleagues to recognize the sacrifices of the Azerbaijani people in their steps toward a free-market economy and encourage a recommitment to the democratic values for which many Azerbaijanis sacrificed their lives.

HONORING OUTGOING DEARBORN CITY COUNCIL MEMBER BRIAN O'DONNELL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Brian O'Donnell on the occasion of his retirement from the City Council of Dearborn, Michigan, where he has honorably served for over ten years. His significant contributions to our community are worthy of commendation.

Mr. O'Donnell is a graduate of Divine Child High School in Dearborn. He also attended Madonna University and Baker College. An active member of the Dearborn community for over two decades, he has served as a City Beautiful Commissioner, as Vice President of the Dearborn Federation of Neighborhood Associations, and as a trustee of the Dearborn Hills Civic Association. Beyond serving on the Council, he has worked for the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company and the State of Michigan.

While on the Dearborn City Council, Mr. O'Donnell was dedicated to promoting smart government spending while still ensuring that the City can continue to provide stellar service to the residents of Dearborn. His voice was constantly a part of the productive discussion and progress made during his time on the Council. From fixing broken streetlights to participating in countless community events around town, his focus was on revitalizing and stabilizing our neighborhoods and making them a better place for all. Mr. O'Donnell's leadership and insight are an asset to the Dearborn community at large. He continues to live in the Dearborn area with his wife Julia and their children Sean and Cece.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Brian O'Donnell. We are grateful for his time spent serving the citizens of Dearborn as a member of the City Council. I join with his family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in the future.

HONORING FRIENDS OF LOXAHATCHEE

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, a non-profit organization in Florida's 21st Congressional District. Since its founding in 1982, the Friends of Loxahatchee have been tirelessly committed to conserving Florida's beautiful natural ecosystems for future generations to enjoy.

The Friends of Loxahatchee was our nation's first U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Friends group. Throughout its years of operation, the over 300 member organization has supported environmental education and wildlife protection services at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge—the northernmost part of the Florida Everglades. The contributions made by Friends of Loxahatchee members and volunteers have introduced countless children across South Florida to science and the wonder of the Everglades. Their projects have engaged disadvantaged youth in environmental conservation and coastal clean-up efforts, funded transportation to the Refuge for school and community groups, and renovated the Refuge Visitor Center and its exhibits.

I am proud to honor the Friends of Loxahatchee for their years of service to the people of South Florida, their education of the next generation of leaders, and their dedication to protecting our animals, plants, and habitats. I look forward to their contributions in the years ahead.

HONORING ANICETO "CHETO" PEREZ, JR.

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Aniceto "Cheto" Perez, Jr., of Alice, Texas. Aniceto has dedicated his life to public service and law enforcement for over three decades and has made a lasting impact on the people of South Texas.

Aniceto was born to Aniceto Perez, Sr. and Martha Valerio Perez of San Diego, Texas in 1959. After graduating from San Diego High School in 1978, Aniceto knew he wanted to establish a career in law enforcement. He began his career with the Duval County Sheriffs Department in 1978, serving as a telecommunicator and jailer before transferring to the City of Alice Police Department.

Aniceto started at the Alice Police Department as a uniformed patrol officer and was promoted three years later to the Narcotics Unit. As a narcotics investigator, Aniceto performed undercover operations and served as a member of the Narcotics Task Force, working closely with local, state, and federal agencies. Aniceto was then promoted once again, this time to Sergeant Investigator of the Narcotics Unit, making him the lead investigator

on many cases. During his tenure in the Narcotics Unit, Aniceto assisted in the seizure of several tons of illegal narcotics, millions of dollars in narcotics-related currency, and countless weapons utilized by drug trafficking organizations. Aniceto also held roles as an Internal Affairs Investigator; Interim Lieutenant for the Patrol and Traffic Division; Training Coordinator; Commander of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team; Police Bicycle Patrol Instructor; Firearms Instructor; Honor Guard Member; Licensed Forensic Hypnosis Administrator; and Chief of Police. Aniceto retired from law enforcement after 39 years of service with the Alice Police Department, the longest tenure to date.

Although it would be impossible to list all the impactful cases he worked on and all he achieved during his time at the Alice Police Department, these cases stand out over the course of Aniceto's storied career:

In 1994, Aniceto was a member of the team assigned to investigate the capital murder case of Trini Gonzalez, who was only 9 years old at the time of her death. This investigation led to the arrest and conviction of two people.

In 2008, Aniceto was a member of the investigating team that responded to an armed bank robbery of a Wells Fargo Bank that involved the shooting of an Alice police officer. This investigation led to an arrest, conviction, and recovery of stolen currency.

In 2018, Aniceto was made lead investigator on the murder case of Matthew Murphy, a police officer shot in the line of duty. This case had remained unsolved since 1974, but through much diligence and investigation Aniceto and his team obtained a confession, arrest, and conviction for the case, which spanned from Texas to Alabama.

Aniceto also participated in a lengthy multi-agency surveillance operation of a suspected member of the Asian Triad who was living in Alice and owned a business there. Upon his arrest, the suspect was found to be in possession of floor plans of a federal building in Corpus Christi. This operation is believed to have stopped a possible terrorist attack on the building.

Aniceto has accumulated an impressive number of awards and commendations over the course of his career, including the City of Alice Chamber of Commerce Police Officer of the Year Award in 1995 and 2018, the City of Alice Police Department Achievement Award, and the Jim Wells County Leadership Award. He is also very engaged in the community, and has served as a board member, volunteer coach and official for the Boys and Girls Club, regional coordinator for Toys for Tots, and judge for various local athletic organizations including the Alice Swim Team and the Coastal Bend Allstars Swim Team.

Aniceto expresses no desire to slow down anytime soon. He is currently a Professor and Criminal Justice Faculty Lead at Coastal Bend College, where he shares his knowledge and expertise with students. Aniceto has expressed gratitude and love for his career; however, he states his greatest accomplishments are being a husband to his wife Jo Ann for 37 years, being a father to his daughter Sabrina and son Aeren, and being a grandfather to his two grandchildren, Aaden and Alaina.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Aniceto Cheto Perez, Jr., a truly passionate public servant who represents the best of our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in

congratulating him on his outstanding career and thanking him for his devotion to the people of the Rio Grande Valley.

HONORING LEWIS JORDAN

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lewis Jordan who is being honored for his exemplary service as Executive Director of the Housing Authority for the County of Marin from 2012 to 2021.

For nearly a decade, Mr. Jordan led the Marin Housing Authority (MHA) in its mission to improve housing opportunities for low-income families, seniors, and children and confront systemic inequities related to generational poverty and racial disparity in Marin County. During his nine-year tenure, Mr. Jordan managed an annual budget of approximately 50 million dollars. He fostered robust financial viability across programs and increased opportunities for additional funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Mr. Jordan's collaborative work with other community groups including businesses, government entities, and community-based organizations produced results. He increased access to resources for Marin's vulnerable residents through partnership with Marin Homeless Continuum of Care and by ensuring access to specialty vouchers for veterans, the unhomed, and survivors of domestic violence. The landlord partnership program he developed increased MHA's voucher utilization rate to more than 95 percent, and the program has since become a nationwide model.

When the COVID-19 pandemic increased the threat of homelessness and placed a subsequent strain on housing, Mr. Jordan and his team at MHA effectively distributed 117 Emergency Housing Vouchers to at-risk community members and organized the issuance of HUD waivers to provide critical relief to tenants enrolled in their subsidized programs.

My staff and I have worked closely with Mr. Jordan through his tenure with MHA, and I have seen first-hand his skills and commitment to improving the quality of life for our community in Marin County and the extended region.

Lewis Jordan is a man of conviction. His values and many good deeds are appreciated and worthy of special recognition. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing gratitude to Lewis Jordan for his hard work and accomplishments and extending to him best wishes in his next endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT WINKLER

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a notable public servant within my district, Robert Winkler. After serving his community as a Zoning Officer, Code Enforcement Officer, and Building Inspector for

twenty-four years, Robert ran for office and was chosen by the Borough of Penndel to be their Mayor.

Throughout his twelve year tenure, Mayor Winkler worked diligently to improve the borough and the quality of life of all its citizens. Through his relationships with other elected officials at every level of government, as well as business owners and industry executives, Robert improved the delivery of municipal services. He increased communication between residents and businesses through the establishment of a semi-annual newsletter. Through his office, Mayor Winkler actively coordinated community events such as holiday parades, the Penndel Borough Community Day, and food drives. His work did not go unnoticed: not only was he re-elected three times, but Robert was also honored by the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs as Mayor of the Year in 2019.

Today, I am proud to recognize Robert Winkler as an exceptional man of proven leadership who never wavered in his commitment to serving our community and country. We are incredibly grateful for Robert's decades of public service and the positive impact that he has had on his beloved home of Penndel and the entirety of our Bucks County community.

HONORING COMMUNITY CHAMPION PAUL NELSON

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize one of my constituents from back home in Western Pennsylvania, Mr. Paul Nelson.

Mr. Nelson's commitment to the Erie and surrounding communities has existed for decades. He began working at Waldameer Park and Water World at the age of 11 and took over the park in 1965. His loyalty and tireless efforts have positively impacted not only the people of Erie, but those who visit. Mr. Nelson is truly a Community Champion and should be honored with highest regard for his dedication and commitment.

HONORING OUTGOING DEARBORN CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT SUSAN DABAJA

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Susan Dabaja on the occasion of her retirement from the position of President of the City Council of Dearborn, Michigan, where she has honorably served for eight years. Her significant contributions to our community are worthy of commendation.

Mrs. Dabaja was born and raised in Dearborn, Michigan and is a graduate of Edsel Ford High School and the University of Michigan—Dearborn. She graduated first in her class from the University of Detroit—Mercy Law School in 2004, while raising her young children. In addition to her council service, she